Procure-to-Pay Capability Summary

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SUBJECT: Global EXchange (GEX)

BACKGROUND: Procure-to-Pay business processes require accurate and timely data transfer between hundreds of systems across the Department of Defense (DoD). Traditional point-to-point interface development in this environment would lead to unmanageable complexity. The DoD instead leverages the Global EXchange (GEX) to provide data integration services. The GEX, managed by the Defense Logistics Agency, is an Interface Broker which utilizes proven products and processes to deliver superior data interface integrations by enabling application of the "Hub and Spoke" design approach to interface development. It enables the exchange of transactional data between DoD entities and between DoD and commercial industry. GEX validates, secures, translates, routes, archives, and delivers mass volumes of XML, EDI and other transactions with guaranteed delivery and end-to-end accountability.

POLICY: DFARS PGI 204.201 requires the use of GEX for distributing contract awards. In February 2016, the DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 3, Chapter 8 added the requirement to use the GEX to validate commitments. The GEX is required as a broker for all Procure-to-Pay handshake transactions.

DATA STANDARDS: The GEX capability evolved from an American National Standards Institute X12 processing and routing service into its current open architecture. GEX supports 50+ different transaction sets, such as the Procurement Data Standards (PDS), X12, iDoc, and User Defined Format (UDF). The integration process establishes an abstraction layer concept that supports the rapid development and reuse of data transformations over a wide variation of data formats used by the systems sending or receiving data.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE: The GEX operates out of two data centers in Ogden, Utah, and Columbus, Ohio. Both sites have full continuity of operations infrastructures, including demilitarized zone (DMZ) instances, load balancing and hot failover capabilities. This provides confidence that GEX can continue to support critical data integrations through any unanticipated events.

IMPACT: The GEX reduces the cost and complexity of interface maintenance, allows for a flexible business environment, scales favorably (21 Trillion Bytes of data per year), and secures and ensures the quality of data being transmitted across the DoD enterprise. It provides unprecedented visibility into the data used throughout procure-to-pay business processes, enabling DoD's senior leadership to make better business decisions.

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